

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Inventor(s) : Robert ZACCARIA
Serial No. : To Be Assigned
Filed : Herewith
For : METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR THE CONTINUOUS
PERFORMANCE MONITORING OF A LEAD ACID
BATTERY SYSTEM
Examiner : To Be Assigned
Art Unit : To Be Assigned

Mail Stop Patent Application
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

SIR:

Kindly amend the above-identified application before examination, as set forth below.

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

On page 1, before line 5, insert:

--CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application is a continuation of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/159,497, filed on September 23, 1998, now U.S. Patent No. _____, which is expressly incorporated herein in its entirety by reference thereto.--.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel without prejudice claims 1 to 20.

Please add the following new claims:

--21. (New) An interface device for interfacing at least one portion of at least one string of batteries with a battery monitoring system, comprising:

at least one probe configured to respectively probe the at least one portion, each probe including: